

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: AEGEAN TURKISH ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S.: IS THE
HONEYMOON OVER?

1. A FEW RECENT STRAWS IN THE WIND MAY PRESAGE A SHIFTING
PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD US IN AEGEAN TURKEY. THE DIS-
POSITION OF MANY TURKS TO VIEW THE US RATHER BENIGNLY
IN AFTERMATH CYPRUS INTERVENTION IS NOW OCCASIONALLY
REPLACED BY MORE JAUNDICED VIEW OF US ACTIONS FOCUSING
PARTICULARLY ON US CONGRESSIONAL MOVES TO CUT OFF
MILITARY AID TO TURKEY.

PAGE 2 RUFLAEA5404 C O N F I D E N T I A L

2. FOLLOWING INCIDENTS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE:

--TWO WEEKS AGO IZMIR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY
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VOTED TO CHANGE NAME OF KENNEDY SQUARE TO ALTAY SQUARE.

ALTHOUGH ALTAY BONAFIDE NATIONAL HERO WHO DIED ONLY RECENTLY, REASON FOR CHANGE WAS REACTION TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S WIDELY REPORTED EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY.

--SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE BELLIGERENTLY ATTACKED BY HERETOFORE POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE FAMILY FRIENDS FOR CONTINUING WORK FOR CONGEN DESPITE AID SUSPENSION DECISION.

--LOCAL RPP SENIOR OFFICIAL PRIVATELY EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT US ELECTION RESULTS CONFIRMED ANTI-TURKISH US PUBLIC BIAS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY PERMANENTLY PREVENT RESUMPTION MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO FURTHER STRAIN IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

-- RALLY OF RECENTLY ORGANIZED TURKISH SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY IN IZMIR NOVEMBER 8 DREW CROWD VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT FOUR HUNDRED (CONGEN FSL) TO MORE THAN FIFTEEN HUNDRED (LOCAL PRESS), WHICHEVER IS MORE NEARLY CORRECT,

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SUCH A "HAPPENING" WOULD HAVE BEEN UNLIKELY OCCUR EVEN SIX WEEKS AGO. RALLY FOLLOWED BY MARCH THROUGH CENTER OF CITY WITH MARCHERS SHOUTING "MURDERER KISSINGER", "MURDERER AMERICA", "DEATH OF FASCISM" ETC.

-- DURING LAST FEW DAYS ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR ON WALLS OF AEGEAN UNIVERSITY.

3. WHILE THESE INCIDENTS MAY BE ISOLATED MANIFESTATIONS AT THIS TIME, WE JUDGE THEM TO BE HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME IF MILITARY AID CUT-OFF BECOMES REALITY. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT AS OF NOVEMBER 5 IZMIR ONLY MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA IN TURKEY NOT UNDER MARTIAL LAW. IT THEREFORE POSSIBLE, DESPITE ITS CONSERVATIVE HERITAGE, IZMIR COULD BE IN VANGUARD OF ANY RESURGENT VIOLENCE. AS OF NOW, HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY MARKED CHANGE IN MOOD IN OUR DAY TO DAY CONTACTS.
SMITH

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